A TRUE

NARRATIVE

Of the Proceedings at the

Seſſions-Houſe

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY,

Which begun on *Wedneſday* the 26th of *February* 1678. and ended on *Thurſday* the 27th following.

WHERE

Were ſeveral Arraigned and Tryed for ſeveral Felonies, Burglaries, and Clipping, the moſt remarkable of which are here faithfully related.

WITH

The number of the perſons that received Sentence of Death, Burn'd in the hand, tranſported, and to be whipt.

VVith Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for *D. M.* 1678.

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The Proceedings at the Sessions-house in the Old-Bayly, on the 26th and 27th days of February, 1678.

A Young man was Indicted for shooting another on Board a Ship, lying near *Wapping*, the manner of the Tryal was thus. Two Ships, namely, the *London-Mary*, and the *Advance*, lying one almost a-head the other, the Prisoner happened to be in the hinder of them, employ'd himself (as it seems is usual among Sea-men) in shooting with a Musquet, loaded with Bullet, at the *Cap-head* of the Vessel in which he was Servant; but aiming not directly aright, the Bullet glanced on their *Cap-head*, and from thence fled to the other Ship, about a hundred yards distant, and, piercing through a Board about an Inch and half thick, unfortunately hit the deceased Youth, who, with 3 others, was then sitting on a Cable in the Fore-castle of that Ship. The Bullet entered in at his Fore-head and made there a mortal Wound, whereof he presently dyed.

The Prisoner deny'd not but that it was his sad misfortune to shoot off that Fatal Musquet, and at Bar shew'd much sorrow for its fatal Effects. Being demanded how he came to shoot it off, he told

the aforesaid occasion; *viz.* that he was aiming at the *Cap-tain*, as he had formerly frequently done without any such evil consequence: He was queried farther, whether he knew there was any one in the Fore-castle of the other Ship, to which he answered, he did not. The Brother of the deceased also owned, and so did divers others confirm, that the Prisoner could not possibly be sensible there was any one there when he shot. For these reasons, as also that the deceased and his Companions were altogether out of sight of the Prisoner at that juncture, also that the Room wherein they were was judged about 120 yards distant when he shot, also that the Prisoner had no former malice but an old Friendship with the party deceased, he was therefore brought in only guilty of Man-slaughter.

The next Tryal was of a middle-ag'd Man, who was indicted for that brutish sin of Ravishing a young Girl of about 13 or 14 years of Age; the Girl swore (as is usual in those Cases) very home to the Indictment; *viz.* that on the 30*th* of *Octob.* last, she being sent by her Mistress to this mans House for 2 Pots of Ale, he on the Cellar Stairs threw her down, and did by force do violence to her Body, *&c.* by which means she pretended she not only became infirm, but also contracted the foul Distemper; there was no solid Witness on her side but her self; so that she being examined how long it was before she complain'd of this wrong received by the Prisoner, answered about 14 Weeks after it was done; being again de-

demanded why she conceal'd it so long, said she was afraid to discover it for fear her Mistress should chastise her; being ask'd again why she had not the same dread on her when she did discover it, had little to say in her own Vindication, save only that her Infirmity and Sore increased on her: But the person arraigned had happily taken sufficient care to have the Girl, presently after her Mistress (by her direction) had accused him with this unnatural Act, throughly searched and examined by two able Surgions, a Nurse and a Midwife, all which affirm'd that the Girl had not received any such injury in those parts as was pretended. Also it being fully proved by several sufficient Witnesses, the Prisoners Neighbours, and one of them a substantial man, that the Father of the said Girl had offered, and indeed urged the Prisoner, that he would with-draw the Indictment, and send his Daughter into the Country, if he would give him one hundred pound; with many other Circumstances which signified it was only a design'd Impeachment to gain a sum of mony from the Prisoner, who had liv'd in good Credit, and gone through most Offices in his Parish. For these Reasons, and others too many here to enumerate, he was brought in not guilty, and the Father of the Girl obliged either to be taken into Custody, or else to find good Security for his good behaviour for the future.

The next was a Woman indicted for feloniously taking a Golden Watch; but the Evidence

being

being only able to swear that she sold the said Watch to him, and he to another, who shewing it to another Watch-maker was told by him that it was a stoln Watch; but no body coming in to own it she was acquitted.

A poor Fellow of *Stepney* Parish was arraigned for stealing 18 Fowls, a Kittle and a Tub; out of a House in the same Parish; the Kittle was found at the Prisoners House, but the Fowls he had carried to a Neighbours, on whom he would fain have fathered the Fellony; but he brought sufficient Evidence to prove the Prisoner brought them to him, and only desired they might remain there for a little space, and he would fetch them again; besides, the Prisoner had formerly confest the Felony before a Justice of the Peace, which being sufficient Testimony against him, he was brought in guilty of ten pence.

Another man of the same Parish was arraigned for stealing Mony and some Apparel out of a House also in the same Parish, but no absolute proof being brought against him but only for a Wast-coat which was found on him, he was judg'd guilty of the value of ten-pence.

Two young Women likewise of the same Parish were indicted for getting into a House, (the Door being left open) and taking with them Linnen and other Apparel to a considerable value, but all the positive Evidence against them being of a young Girl, who saw them come out of the Yard, wherein both that House and several others

were

were situate, though there was many other Circumstances made against them, they were acquitted.

The next were two young Fellows who pleaded Guilty (though there were four Indictments preferred against them) to all within the benefit of the Clergy.

Two men of vicious Reputations, the one having been burnt in the hand, (the other had been in Prison on suspicion of Felony before) on the 20th of *February* last took occasion to go into a Coach-yard near *Marrowbone*, and one of them pretending to go to the house of Office, which was at the further end of it, instead thereof went to a Coach which was newly come in, out of which he took two Cloaks and other things, which being proved on them, they were brought in guilty of Felony.

A young man of *Clarkenwell* Parish was indicted for breaking open his fellow Parishioners house, out of which he took to the value of 10*l*. in Hats; it was done about 3 of the Clock in the morning, and the Fellow being shortly after seiz'd confest the Fact, one of the Hats being taken on his Head, so that though the Nursery of *Newgate* had instructed him to deny his former Confession, yet he not being able to prove how he came by that Hat found on him, he was judg'd guilty.

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An ancient woman of *Totten*, in the County of *Middlesex*, having occasion to go abroad in *February* last; at her return home about noon, found her house had been newly broken open and Robb'd, and obtaining the assistance of her Neighbours to pursue on Horse-back the Robbers, they at length overtook a Woman, this day brought to the Bar for that Fact. There needed little proof against her, having confest the breaking open of the House, and the others then with her had made escape, besides part of the goods were found on her; for which (the House being broken open at Noonday) it was re-puted but Felony, and she accordingly brought in Guilty.

But the most remarkable Tryals of all, were two persons indicted for Coyning and Clipping. The first of them lived in *Aldgate* Parish, and the Evidence against him certainly the clearest and most undoubted that ever was produced against any man impeach't of that private wicked and base Crime. The chief Witness that swore against him was imployed by a Gentleman of worth to do all he could to find out these sort of Traytors, and he did it so effectually, by making some overtures to the Prisoner, that he would be an assistant to him in helping him to sums of large money to Clip, and also assist him in putting off what he coyned. So that at last the Malefactor concluding him real, did with little scruple, shew him all his Art; which being all the party so employed could expect, he then honestly impeacht him, and this day brought evidence against him.

There were in all 9 Condemned, 6 Men and 3 Women, 3 Burned in the hand, 14 Transported.

FINIS.